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**TOP SOVIET LEADERSHIP**

- I. "Election" of Soviet party leaders (to Presidium and Secretariat) confirms that "collective leadership" principal continues.
  - A. No changes made in eleven top slots-- "full members" of Presidium (former "Politburo").
  - B. However, five new "candidate members" of Presidium chosen; number of "candidates" upped from two to six:
    1. Marshal Zhukov--the first professional army officer to reach this political level. Indicates party leaders' increased interest in military viewpoint.
    2. Mukhitdinov--new and surprisingly young face: 39-year-old party boss and cotton expert in Uzbek S.S.R. (Central Asia). Probably a Khrushchev protege.

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3. Bezhnev--top party man in another Central Asian Republic--Kazakhstan--heart of the "new lands" area.
4. Shepilov--member of party Secretariat and chief editor of Pravda. Travelled with Khrushchev to China and Yugoslavia during 1954-1955, and instrumental in setting up arms deal with Egypt. Considered a "comer."
5. Madame Furtseva--46-year-old Moscow party boss and graduate chemical engineer; first woman ever to reach this high office. Moscow party organization since 1942: her husband (N.D. Firyubin) is Ambassador to Yugoslavia. She has been noted as dancing-partner of Khrushchev at Kremlin receptions.

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6. Sixth "candidate member"--Shvernik--  
is only hold-over. Has been head of  
the trade unions since Stalin's death.

C. Only "candidate" casualty was P. K.  
Ponomarenkov, currently Ambassador to  
Poland.

II. Party Secretariat, under First Secretary  
Khrushchev, was also expanded (from six to  
eight), with New Presidium "candidates"  
Brezhnev and Madam Furtseva getting the two  
new slots.

A. Thus, Khrushchev's control over Secre-  
tariat seems well solidified.

III. Party Congress also "elected" new 255-man  
Central Committee (up 18 from former size).

A. Khrushchev's predominant position further  
underscored by large number of his  
protégés who made the grade.

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- B. However, other top leaders (Khrushchev, Bulganin, and Kaganovich) also have liberal sprinkling their supporters on Central Committee.
- C. Some decrease noted in representation by army and police. The 14 slots released by this cut-back went to other office-holders in government bureaucracy.